

I oppose mandated copy protection for DTV. I will not purchase any product which incorporates government-mandated copy protection. Such government mandates interfere with my inalienable rights, and are an affront to the Constitution. Such mandates improperly deny the right to produce non-conforming equipment to businesses and researchers.

Further, the proponents of such copy protection measures -- major media -- are an insignificant contributor to the economy and national productivity. The computer industry, however, is directly responsible for the recent marked increases in productivity and prosperity. Setting the precedent for further regulation of the technology sector will stifle innovation and retard economic progress.

The slow adoption of HDTV is not a failure of the government to adopt the correct formula of regulations -- it is a failure of the technology to provide any tangible benefit to the consumer, given its cost. The FTA DTV broadcasters will predictably use the additional capabilities {and expense} of DTV to deliver more programming (and commercials), not higher resolution. Once NTSC broadcasts are phased out, the effect of any copyright protection mandate will be a net decrease in the consumer experience -- same quality but no fair use.

In free society, government does not guarantee business a market in the face of changing market conditions. It is up to the business itself to adapt or succumb. Big media, as we know it, is already dead.